



Application No. 09/876,799

Appendix A

The following is a clean version of all of the pending claims incorporating the amendments to the claims made in this response.

In the Specification:

Replace the paragraph beginning on Page 5, line 28 with the following paragraph:

a¹
Referring now to the drawings, Figures 1 and 2 show a container 10 according to the present invention. When the container 10 is opened as shown in Figure 1, a bouquet 14 may be put into the container through its open top 12. Once the bouquet 14 is placed in the container 10, the container may be closed as shown in Figure 2 to protect the flowers, buds and foliage of the bouquet 14. The bottom end 16 of the container 10 may be open or closed.

Replace the paragraph beginning on Page 6, line 12 with the following paragraph:

a²
The top flap 22 has a roughly triangular shape. In the open position shown in Figure 1, the top flap 22 extends upward from the fold line 26 at their upper rear edges of the receptacle 20 and defines the rear section of the open top 12 of the container 10. In the closed position shown in Figure 2, the top flap 22 is folded along fold line 26 over the container's top opening and secured to the front of the receptacle by, for example, a piece of tape 24.

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 28 with the following:

a³
The receptacle 20 and the top flap 22 are formed by a pair of panels 30a and 30b shown in Figures 3a and 3b. The panels 30a and 30b may be transparent, translucent, or opaque and/or printed or plain. They are preferably made from a film that is, for example, 0.5 mil to 10 mil thick, for example 1.6 mil thick of 2.0 mil thick. The panels 30a

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and 30b may be treated (*i.e.*, printed) with a high-gloss ink on one surface, these treated surfaces preferably forming the exterior of the container 10. Suitable films include polyolefins (particularly polyethylene and polypropylene), polyesters (particularly polyethylene-terephthalate), and nylons. Further, the panels 30a and 30b may be formed from a single layer of sheet material as shown, or one or both of them may be formed of two or more layers to achieve a multi-walled container. Various aesthetic effects can be achieved. For example, an outer layer may be partially or wholly transparent so as to reveal at least partially the adjacent layer.

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 7 line 11 with the following:

Q4
The panels 30a and 30b preferably have the same right triangular shape so that their edges 32a and b, 34a and b and 36a and b correspond to each other. In the illustrated embodiment, the panels 30a and 30b have a right isosceles triangular shape. Accordingly, the panel 30a includes a hypotenuse side 32a and sides 34a and 36a (Figure 3a) and the panel 30b includes a hypotenuse side 32b and sides 34b and 36b (Figure 3b). When the container 10 is in a flattened or collapsed state, as is shown in Figure 4, the panels 30a and 30b lie flat against each other and are attached together along their hypotenuse edges 32a and 32b by a seam 42 and along their perpendicular edges 34a and 34b by a seam 44.

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 8 line 6 with the following:

Q5
A preferred method of making the bouquet container 10 is schematically shown in Figure 5. In this method, two webs 50a and 50b are provided and each of the webs has a width equal to the desired length of the panels' joined perpendicular edges 34a and 34b plus the width of a header 48. The webs 50 preferably each have a treated (*i.e.*, printed) surface and an untreated surface and are positioned to overlay each other with their untreated surfaces facing each other and off set by the width of the header 48. The

9. webs 50 are then intermittently advanced, in timed sequence, to sealing bars 52 and 53. The sealing bars 52 and 53 mount hot wires or hot dies that form the seams 42 and 44, respectively, and simultaneously divide the supported webs into a plurality of containers 10. These containers 10 are collected in a mass, typically in a pack 54 in which the containers 10 are similarly aligned and stacked for use by a florist shop or stand.

10. Replace the paragraph beginning on Page 10, line 1 with the following paragraph:

10. As noted above the webs 50a and 50b, which form the container 10, are superimposed prior to being cut, and are offset by the width of the header 48. In addition, a line of perforations 55 (best shown in Figures 7a, b, and c) is formed in the webs to allow easy separation of the header. The perforations may be made before or after the containers pass the sealing bars 52 and 53 and are made by conventional means.

11. Replace the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 8 with the following paragraph:

11. Referring now to Figures 9 and 10, another bouquet container 110 according to the present invention is shown. When the container 110 is in the open condition shown in Figure 9, it has an open top 112 for insertion of a bouquet 114 therein. Once the bouquet 114 is inserted, the container 110 may be placed in the closed condition shown in Figure 10 to protect the flowers and buds of the bouquet 114. The bottom end 16 of the container 10 may be open or closed and may be secured with a ribbon 118.

12. Replace the paragraph beginning on page 12, line 6 with the following:

12. The receptacle 120 and the top flap 122 are formed by a pair of panels 130a and 130b shown in Figures 11a and 11b. The panels 130a and 130b may be formed of the same material as the panels 30a and 30b discussed above. The panel 130a has an isosceles triangular shape and thus has equal lateral sides 132a and 134a and a third

size 136a. The panel 130b has diamond shape with bottom lateral sides 132b and 134b and top sides 136b. When the container 110 is in a flattened or collapsed state, as is shown in Figure 12, the panels 130a and 130b lie flat against each other and are attached together along their edges 132a and 132b by seam 142 and along their edges 134a and 134b by seam 144. When the container 110 is in its expanded state, the panel 130a forms the front of the receptacle 120 and the panel 130b forms the rear of the receptacle 120 and the flap 122.

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 12, line 20 with the following:

Referring now to Figures 13 and 14, another bouquet container 210 according to the present invention is shown. When the container 210 is in the open condition shown in Figure 13, it has an open top 212 for insertion of a bouquet 214 therein. Once the bouquet 214 is inserted, the container 210 may be placed in the closed condition shown in Figure 14 to protect the flowers and buds of the bouquet 214. The bottom end 216 of the container 210 may be open or closed and may be secured with a ribbon 218, for example.

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 13, line 14 with the following:

The receptacle 220 and the top flap 222 are formed from a single panel 230 shown in Figure 15. The panel 230 may be formed of the same material as the panels 30a, 30b, 130a, and 130b discussed above. The panel 230 has a bottom triangular shape with sides 232a and 232b, an upper triangular shape with sides 234a and 234b, and sides 236a and 236b extending between sides 232a and 234a and between sides 232b and 234b, respectively. In the completed container 210, the sides 232a and 232b are joined together in a seam 242, the sides 234a and 234b form the top flap 222, and the sides 236a and 236b form the front edge of the top opening 122.

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-1~~8~~³ without prejudice.

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19. (Amended) A plant container comprising a receptacle having a top opening, a closed bottom, and a top flap of sufficient size to cover a plant placed in the receptacle, the receptacle and flap consisting essentially of a front panel and a back panel, each of the front and back panels being triangular in shape, the front and back panels being connected to each other along two edges of the triangle.

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28. (Amended) A plant container as set forth in claim 19, wherein the panels lay flat against each other when the container is in a collapsed state whereby they may be compactly stored until ready for use.

A¹³
30. (Amended) A method of making a batch of the plant containers set forth in claim 19, said method comprising the steps of:
overlaying a first web and a second web of a suitable film material;
forming essentially permanent sealing seams between the first and second webs corresponding to the desired shape of the panels; and
dividing the so-seamed webs into the containers.

A¹⁴
40. (Amended) A method of providing a container for a plant, said method comprising the steps of:
storing the plant container of claim 19 in a collapsed state;
expanding the container; and
inserting the plant into the container's top opening.

63. (Amended) A container for a plant including two sheets of flexible material, the sheets being joined by seams along two pairs of corresponding edges and having a pair of corresponding free edges which are not connected to each other,

the container being convertible from an initial flattened condition in which the container is substantially closed to an open condition in which the free edges of the sheets bow away from each other to form an opening, the sheets, when in the open condition, being foldable along a line joining the two free edges and crossing one of the seams to form a flap that substantially covers the opening.